



THE FLATWHEEL

VOL 45 NBR 10 DECEMBER 2011



Newsletter of NMRA MCR Division Four

Art Bumpus, Division 4 Superintendent On Q

Our next meeting date is Friday, December 9th. This is our annual awards banquet/Christmas party. It is being held at Michaud's Party Center located at 16808 Pearl Rd. (Rt. 42) Strongsville. We will meet in the Westin Room. If you haven't signed up already, quickly contact Rich Tressa at rictre@hotmail.com, or 440-572-9245. We have to provide Michaud's the attendance count. The cost of the event is \$15.00 per person and children are free. Let Rich know if you are bringing any young children, so that we can insure Santa has a gift for each of them.

As most of you are aware, I have been building a basement model railroad which has been "in construction" for several (read: lots) of years. The concept and planning were highly influenced by John Armstrong. I recommend to anyone contemplating building a model railroad to read his idea of "givens and druthers" to help you solidify the kind of railroad you want. If your interest includes operation of the railroad, then continuing the planning process should include an important read of John Armstrong's [Track Planning for Realistic Operation](#). This book was not an easy read for me. Some sections I had to read three or four times to understand. In defense of Armstrong, some of what he is teaching is rather complex, but will help you in the design of your railroad. Finally, a review of his "square square" method of dealing with curves will be helpful in configuring your track plan. At this point you will have learned a lot and haven't drawn a track plan yet. But you are getting close. Next month I'll go into some specific things I wanted to incorporate into my railroad (which is an expansion of the "givens and druthers").

On a different note, I would like to express to each of you my gratitude for making Division 4 a strong and vibrant Division. To your credit we have outstanding layouts, a strong modular group with a robust display schedule, a strong membership outreach program, a group of modelers actively building new layouts, a group of modelers actively operating their layouts, a group of modelers who have exhibited fantastic and improving modeling skills in the areas of rail equipment, scenery, and structure building, and a large group of enthusiastic modelers who are sharing their knowledge and skills with a public that is wanting to know more about what we do and how do it.

I wish all of you a warm and festive holiday season to you and your families.

That's about all for now, so remember...Never trade steam for water.



Meeting Minutes

November 11, 2011

LOCATION: Church of the Redeemer, 23500 Center Ridge Road, Westlake, OH 44145

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent Art Bumpus at 7:35 PM. Art started the meeting asking all veterans to stand. A hearty round of applause was heard thanking our veterans on this national Veterans Day. Several visitors were introduced along with three new members.

John Hemsath thanked the four layout tour hosts who opened their homes to members this past weekend.

Gary Sole reported everything is in order for Training Day to be held this coming Sunday, November 13, 2011 at the Rocky River Presbyterian Church on Detroit Road. Setup begins at 9:30 AM.

Larry Madson reported the night's clinic was How To Build A Brick Kiln by Joe Filipiak. There will be no clinic in December as that is the annual Awards Dinner. January will see multiple presenters demonstrating their methods for making trees. Larry also reported the module group will be setup Saturday at the Berea Library, Sunday at the Training Day activity and three days next weekend for the Xmas show at the IX Center. The module crew can use help manning during the three day event. Contact Larry if you can spare a few hours to assist.

Jerry Krueger reported there will be a meeting of the National Convention committee at the IX Center on Sunday, 11/20 at 5 PM. Use the east entrance.

Dave Lawler reported the night's contest was on industrial critters. Tonight also include a photo contest separate from the model contest. Last month's contest 1st place went to Brian Harko, 2nd place to Jim Grell and a tie for 3rd place to Larry Kowicki and Dave Lawler. Show 'N Tell objects included photos from the Structure Expo recently held in Peabody, MA and a private car purchase by Bram Brailey on eBay. Bram is looking for any information on the model's pedigree. There will be a presentation at the Avon Lake Library this coming Monday on the Lake Shore Electric starting at 7 PM. There will be no contest next month due to the Annual Awards Dinner. The January contest will be private vehicles, i.e. cars and pickups other than commercial.

Tim Sheffield stated the Company Store continues to have a good supply of convention cars and AM hopper cars with several numbers.

Mike Klein once again provided a great potpourri of items for the night's raffle (*just finished a cup of coffee from the mug I won – Sec.*)

Old Business – The treasurer reminded all there is a sign up sheet for those planning on attending the annual Awards Dinner to be held this year at Machauds Town and Country on Pearl Road in Strongsville, Friday, December 9th in lieu of the standard meeting. Art reviewed the 2012 draft budget as recommended by the BOD. This is a balanced budget using the most recent Carnival net profit and CD interest for income to offset an equal amount of expenses. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the budget as presented.

New Business – This year the BOD decided to hold a regular meeting the second Friday In June. A picnic will be planned for July. Anyone with ideas on a sight for the picnic location should contact Art. Suggestions made included; Lorain Co. Fairgrounds, German American Club near the old Trolleyville, the Coupling Reserve in Milan and the NKP Museum in Bellevue. Jerry Krueger reported on a local source for styrene and PVC flat stock. Bram Bailey and Lee Sheffield also reported they were looking at a trip to US Plastics in Lima. Anyone wishing them to purchase some plastic flat stock should contact them.

Larry Madson reported long time member Len Sherry was in a serious motorcycle accident 4 weeks ago and is currently in a rehab establishment. Compounding the family issues, Len's wife Carol passed away this week.. Contact Larry Madson for details.

Dave Williams reported the Route 30 Express will be held 11/19, show casing layouts between Ashland and Canton, many of which may be candidates to for layout tours and operating sessions at the 2014 convention.

The business meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Bowie, Secretary

We had some losses over the past month or so.

Longtime member **Martha Newberry**, wife of member Eric Newberry. Martha was known for her detailed structures, as an example, winning Best of Show at the Mid Central Regional convention in Geneva this year. Martha also had work published in the highly prestigious *Miniature Collector* magazine.

Carol Scherry, wife of member Len Scherry. Carol was very active in the Division up until a few years ago. As was noted in the Minutes, Len is recovering from a serious motorcycle accident and was unable to attend Carol's service.

Lin Young, former Superintendent of Division 9. Lin was a contest judging instructor at our 2008 Regional, and arranged and conducted the industrial tours during the 2010 Regional in Charleston WV.

We extend our sympathy to family and friends.

Membership by Dennis Whitaker

December 2011 Birthdays:

DAVID E ANDERSON	RUSSELL L CONSER
FRANK L FEKO	BO HAMMARLING
JOHN H HEMSATH	PATRICIA HENNING
CHARLES B KLEIN	WILLIAM J KOSTKA
BEN LANZA	JEFFREY R LAUREN
JASON NORTHEY	JOSEPH H SAUNDERS
LEE D SOULE	CHARLES D SPENCER
MICHAEL VOLLMAR	DENNIS F WHITAKER
JOSEPH WITOUSKI	ED J WOSKOWICZ

New Members:

DALE MCCARTY	MIDDLEBURG HEIGHTS
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Re-Rail Members:

NONE

Editor's Notes

One of the more pleasant parts of my stint as Modeling Coordinator for the Nickel Plate Society was meeting contest entrants like Eric and Martha Newberry during the annual conventions. Martha had a razor sharp mind that she applied to both her models and her conversation. She scratchbuilt a depot (it may not have actually been Nickel Plate, but trust me, with her level of craftsmanship, it was still unanimously welcomed onto the contest table) and what caught my eye was a red pencil on a desk in the fully detailed interior. To be able to convincingly craft an HO scale pencil is amazing, but additionally consider knowing exactly where to place the pencil for the best effect, and for that matter, that the pencil was necessary to create a more realistic composition was truly astounding. I was lucky enough to sit with Martha in this year's Regional contest room (there seemed to be an informal waiting line of her fans). She mentioned that she'd had some recent health problems that would probably limit her modeling ability, and we both got quiet for a few seconds. I spent the time pondering the inevitable aging process and assumed that she was doing the same. Nope - she'd taken those few seconds to glance at the scoresheet for her entry, recalculating probably faster than the original judge - and more correctly. She motioned a judge over in a split second and got her full points. Martha was a professional modeler and a wonderful person, and I'll miss seeing her.

On a lighter subject, I'm trying to puzzle my way through Iain Rice's book, *Layout Design*. You're probably familiar with his writing in *Model Railroader* magazine, but this is very different. It's obviously aimed at a British audience, with numerous references to obscure locations and scales. 2mm, 4mm? I kind of get OO. Nevertheless, the parts of what he says that translate into American make the book worth the effort. Like Art, I've had some trouble with understanding all of John Armstrong, and this book makes it all a little easier. Besides, Mr Rice has a good sense of humor - stating (on lighting) that many layouts seem to be sited on a strange planet with many suns and a surface temperature that could "happily melt lead"! Available for check out through Porter library in Westlake (after I return it).

Dave Williams



Thanks to David James for stepping forward to take over refreshment duties at our meetings.

Awards Banquet

Division 4 will be hosting its 2011 Awards Banquet On Friday, December 9th.

The location will be Michaud's Town and Country Party Center, 16808 Pearl Road, Strongsville, Oh. We will be in the Westin Room. It is fully handicap accessible.

Cost is \$15 per person. Kids under 16 are free. The banquet room will be open at 7:00 pm and dinner will be served at 7:30 pm. There will be a full buffet and, of course Santa will be there.

Coffee, tea and soft drinks will be provided. If you wish you may BYOB for your enjoyment of other libations. Set-ups (washes, ice, etc.) will be provided for those who so wish.

The entertainment will be *The Denny Franz Singers*, and, as noted, Santa will be there for kids of all ages.

And as usual we will have a raffle of delightful and desired items for all.

Reservations are required. For further information and to place your reservations, please call Rich Tressa at 440-572-9245 or email him at rictre@hotmail.com. You may pay at the November meeting or at the Banquet but please advise Rich in advance so we have a head count.

RAFFLE REPORT

Ladies and Gentlemen, once again it's time for another raffle extravaganza at the Holiday Awards Banquet. There will be something for the Ladies, the Kids, and of course the Gentlemen and kids at heart. Ladies baskets, models, toys and much more, including THE HENNING PICTURE. See you all at the banquet. HAPPY HOLIDAY'S everyone..

The Raffle Dudes



Porter Library Display

Division 4 will have a two section display case at Porter Library in Westlake on Center Ridge Rd. for the month of December. They were so pleased with last year's display that they asked us to fill two cases this year. I would like to display more of the modeling handy work of the division. If you would like to display some models, buildings, rolling stock, locomotives etc. I will need them at the November meeting or by Thanksgiving.

Regards
Chuck Klein

The Clinic Corner

No Clinic for December Enjoy the Awards Banquet

January 2012 Clinic

Trees – Trees – Trees!!

Join us for an evening of making trees! Joe Filipiak, Brian Haas, Dave Lawler and Tom McInerney will conduct a hands-on demonstration of several methods of making trees. If you have ever wanted to learn how to make realistic trees, this is the program for you!

Clinics Wanted

Any Division member wishing to present a program for the 2011 – 2012 season, please contact me.

A Digital Projector for the Division

The Division 4 digital projector is available for use by division members for presenting clinic programs in digital format. Anyone wishing to present a program in digital format contact Larry Madson. phone: 440-934-2643 or email lmadson@roadrunner.com.

Larry Madson

Joe Filipac taught how to convert some low cost materials into a very realistic brick kiln during the November clinic.



Joe used his classroom skills to keep a wary eye open for daydreamers. Not a real concern -the clinic did keep everyone interested.



Joe explained the differences in the manufacture of real kiln fired bricks.



Jerry Krueger (right) debates the finer points of acid core solder for handmade turnouts with a visitor to Training Day (most of Jerry's audience was older but not quite as cute). That's Steve Kaplan next to Jerry. Attendance on both sides of the tables (presenters/visitors) was very good.

Dave Lawler (front) and Bruce Bowie gave instruction on basic modeling skills.



Special thanks to our kitchen staff.



Tom McInerney demonstrated structure technique.

As usual, the Modular Group's display provided fascination for everyone.





Read the Flatwheel online at www.div4.org

Yahoo - The Division has a Yahoo group available for members. Send your request to join to dave_wms@sbcglobal.net. It's best to include "Division 4" in the subject line and include your name.

Members of the Yahoo Group receive an email when the Flatwheel PDF has been posted onto the website. The group is private and does not appear on the Yahoo directory.

We also have an email list to notify you when the Flatwheel is placed on the website. You are no longer required to join the Yahoo Group for this service.

Uncredited photos: D Williams.

The Flatwheel is published monthly (except during July and August) by Division Four of the Mid-Central Region (MCR) of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA). The Flatwheel can be mailed to all Division Four members free of charge, however we request that all members with Internet access decline receiving a mailed copy. Subscriptions are available to others for \$12.00 annually. All comments are welcome, however, those views expressed in the Flatwheel do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the NMRA, MCR, or Division Four.

Deadline for the January Flatwheel is Thursday December 29, 2011.

DIVISION FOUR OFFICERS

Elected

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Historian/Archivist

Frank Bongiovanni

Raffle

Mike Klein

Company Store

Tim Sheffield

Clinics

Larry Madson

Flatwheel Editor

Dave Williams

Membership Co-Chairs

Dennis Whitaker/Joe Mehalic

Modules

Scott Benson

N.O.A.R.S. Representative

Chuck Beargie

Webmaster

Ben Lanza

Christmas Connection - Modular Layout at the IX Center



Engineer Ken Orchard. Ken's also celebrating the season as a volunteer for the Cuyahoga Valley Railroad's Polar Express.

The modular layout was close to the ferris wheel.



Waiting for the train.



Most of the Friday morning shift greets visitors.



...and what's a Christmas show without nearby dogs and accordian players?



Contest Corner

conducted by Dave Lawler

The November model contest was "Critters".

There were 7 entries and 49 votes.

1st	Brian Harko	Open Cab #7
2nd	Jim Grell	Ore Dock Mule
3rd	Art Bumpus	B&O Dockside

Point standings: Jim Grell (9), Brian Harko(8), George Gelehrter(5)

Photo Contest Report:

There were 15 entries and only 26 votes which made the tallying rather interesting as follows:

1st	Bill Kovacs	Pennsy Doodlebug
2nd	Bill Kovacs	Harpers Ferry Tunnel "E"
3rd (tie)	Bill Kovacs	Harpers Ferry Tunnel "D"
	Al Halvorsen	Soo Line Pacific
	Joe Filipiak	Steam on the Move
	Joe Filipiak	Shay at Cass
	Dave Lawler	#487 Working Uphill

There will be no contest in December so all of our model builders and photographers can take a break and enjoy the Christmas Party.

The next contest, in January, is for automobiles or pick-up trucks, any scale, any era, privately owned, no commercial vehicles.

Don't forget to bring your winning entries from the November contests in January for "show and tell"



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Next meeting:

**Friday December 9, 2011
Awards Banquet**

Reservations Required

**Michaud's Town and Country
Party Center, 16808 Pearl Road,
Strongsville, Oh**

Westin Room opens at 7 pm

Dinner at 7:30 pm

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Division website: www.div4.org

Two boys at our recent Training Day share the controls of a Lionel train. This set and an HO table layout were raffled by Scott Benson, Modular Group Chair. Scott also deserves a special merit award for his gentle yet effective child crowd control during the event's busier moments.

A 501(c)(3) Non Profit Educational Organization
FIRST CLASS

Dave Williams
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